

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's rejections as set forth in the Office Action of August 30, 2004, Applicants have amended claims 2, 7, 9, 11-12, 17, and 25-27 and canceled claims 1, 3, 16, and 21-24. Claims 2, 4, 7-12, 17-20, and 25-30 remain pending.

The amendments made to the claims are intended to place this Application in allowable condition. Claims 2 and 17 have been written in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner, and all remaining dependent claims in the Application have been renumbered so as to be dependent on either independent claim 2 or independent claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 2, 4, 7-12, 17-20, and 25-30 are therefore allowable. No other amendments are made hereby.

Claims 3 and 21-24, though indicated to be allowable if rewritten, have been canceled. The subject matter thereof is not abandoned by Applicants; the canceled claims will likely be resubmitted (with additional claims) in a continuing application.

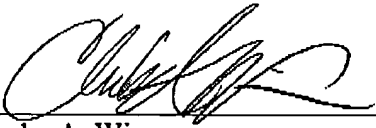
With regard to the claim rejections in light of John, U.S. Patent No. 6,066,163, Applicants take no position as to the substantive reasons for the Examiner's rejection and may raise similar claims in a related application. The purpose of the amendments included herein is solely to place the Application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the amendments contained herein address all of the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action of August 30, 2004. Applicants respectfully requests examination of the subject application with a view toward allowance.

As no new claims have been added by this Amendment, Applicants believe that no claim fees are currently due. Applicant respectfully requests that **Deposit Account No. 50-2268** be charged for the requested three-month extension of time. Authorization to charge any additional necessary fees to the Deposit Account, or to credit any overpayment, is hereby granted.

If a telephone interview would be considered advantageous to advance prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully Submitted,

2/28/05
Dated


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